

RECORDS OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM,  
LAUNCESTON

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The Occurrence in Tasmania of *Lactoria Diaphana*  
(Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

By

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1 PLATE

A specimen (QVM No. 1955 : 5 : 8) of *Lactoria diaphana* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801) was sent to the Queen Victoria Museum on June 6th, 1955, by Mrs. A. Cornish of Bicheno, on the East Coast of Tasmania.

This fish was washed up on Circular Beach two miles from Bicheno during what Mrs. Cornish describes in a letter to the Museum on July 20th as "a very violent and freak rough sea that played havoc with fishing boats here". The fish must have been brought down from more northerly waters by the same current that brings down the sea snakes of the genera *Hydrus* and *Platurus*, which have only been recorded on the East Coast. It is very interesting to see *Lactoria* so far out of its usual range.

The specimen was kept in a refrigerator for about ten days and then presented to the Museum, its condition being very satisfactory. It has since been dried and preserved.

It is apparently an immature specimen, the total length being only 4.65" and standard length 3.56", the British Museum Catalogue giving the length as 8½".

It has not previously been recorded for Tasmania, nor for Victoria or South Australia.

McCulloch—The Fishes and Fishlike Animals of N.S.W., 1929, notes "A tropical specimen which is sometimes stranded on our ocean beaches".

McCulloch's Check-list, 1929, notes the distribution as N.S.W., South Africa, East Indies, Pacific Ocean and Japan. The British Museum Catalogue, 1870 records the locality as "From the Cape of Good Hope to Japan and Australia".



#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge with thanks the photo of *Lactoria diaphana* taken by "The Examiner".

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